

Issue 126 March 2015

KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers





IGKT Sales Order Form

E-mail your order as below or mail to
IGKT Supplies Secretary,
18 Beverley Crescent, Woodford Green,
IG8 9DD, UK
Telephone +44 (0)20 8504 4544

Books	Author	£	Sub Total
A booklet on Lanyards – This is a very easy-to-follow introduction to making useful lanyards	Willeke van der Ham	3	
Design and Make Rope Mats and Rosettes – 'Recipes' for many circular mats and instructions for using a free downloadable program to create many others.	Nils Kristian Rossing	10	
Knotcraft – A much-loved book about decorative knotting.	Stuart Grainger	4	
Decorative Woven Flat Knots (incl CD) – Lots of terrific shapes	Skip Pennock	12.5	
Knots for the Cut (a "Cut" is a canal in the UK) - Very clear description of knots and ropework for small boats	Ben Selfe	12.5	
The DIY Book of Fenders - Does exactly what it says	Colin Jones	10	
Turksheads the Traditional Way – A really useful introduction	Eric Franklin	1.5	
Advanced Knotting – an excellent DVD with patterns for complex 3D Turks Heads	Maurice McPartlan	12	
IGKT Cloth Badge		2	
Certificate of Membership (Supplied at cost)			
IGKT Ditty Bag – 9" high x 6.5" across base. W/out cord		7.5	
IGKT Enamel Brooch/Badge		4	
IGKT Rubber Stamp		4	
IGKT Tie		10	
Postage & packing*			
Total Amount Due			

*Please e-mail supplies@igkt.net with your order stating the full postal address to which the items are to be sent. We will e-mail a payment request to you (incl postage & packing) so that you can make secure payment by PayPal online using any card. If you do not have email access you can complete the details below and send by post but at your own risk. If you wish, p&p can be added and charged to your card automatically.

Payment can be made by: Cheque drawn on a UK Bank/ Credit Card*/Debit Card (delete as appropriate)

Name (as on card if used)

Address

Post/Zip Code

Card No

Start date (MMYY) End date (MMYY) Security Code Last 3 digits on reverse of card

Signature Date

*We cannot accept American Express cards on this form but if you have an Amex card then this can be used via PayPal

Index:

- 4 Executive Committee Report
 - 5 Letters to The Editor
 - 7 Knot Names by Owen Nuttall
 - 8 A Letter from a Master by Skip Higgs
 - 10 The Multi-Strand Matthew Walker by Gary Summers
 - 14 From the Hamilton Spectator (Canada) by Jeff Mahoney
 - 17 Golden Gate Bridge Netting by Geoffrey Budworth
 - 19 Part of John Richings's Richness by Our North Americas Stringer
 - 22 Nodus Pineappilus Bug from The Ministry of Agriculture and Whatknots
 - 24 Center Spread Triumvirate
 - 26 Notes from the President
 - 28 The Boston Hitch as Told by Its Developer, Robert Moses MD
 - 30 Knotting Boards Down Under by Jim Caswell
 - 33 US Navy Landing Craft: Life Ring Project by Guy Beckley
 - 34 L'Hermione Sails!
 - 36 The Right Honorable Lord Baden-Powell
 - 37 Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson and Captain Cook
 - 38 2015 Meeting Plans
 - 39 The Other (Tiny) Knots by Frank Brown
 - 40 Found on the Internet
 - 42 Branch Reports
 - 44 Ancient Practice
 - 47 Branch Meetings
- Cut-off date for Summer Issue receipt of copy is Tuesday May 12, 2015**
Autumnal Equinox Issue receipt of copy is Tuesday August 11, 2015.

Front Cover A rope bridge in Shark Cove, The Bahamas, with thanks to my son and daughter-in-law, who took this photograph whilst on vacation! Ed.

Catalog Information

Issue 126 - March 2015

Except as otherwise indicated, copyright in Knotting Matters is reserved to the International Guild of Knot Tyers, IGKT 2015. Copyright of members' articles published in Knotting matters is reserved to the authors and permission to reprint should be sought from the author and from the editor. All sources of quotations printed in Knotting Matters are hereby acknowledged.

ADVERTISING RATES (Pounds Sterling)

	Members	Non-members
Full page	50	70
Half Page	25	35
Quarter Page	15	20
Full (colour)	140	170

EDITOR

Lindsey Philpott

e-mail: knottingmatters@igkt.net

HON. SEC.

Tel: 0144 (0) 1769 540 626

e-mail: secretary@igkt.net

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

c/o 15 Spey Close, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2NR UK

e-mail: membership@igkt.net

PRESIDENT

Antoine Leroy

e-mail: president@igkt.net

GUILD POSTAL ADDRESS

for all correspondence

Hon Sec, IGKT

Oaken Cleave, Cobbaton

Umberleigh, Devon EX37 9SG, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES (Pounds Sterling)

Juniors - under 18 Free

Adults 1-year 23 Adults 5-year 100

Families 1-year 27 Families 5-year 115

Group 10 Corporate By arrangement

The International Guild of Knot Tyers (IGKT) is a registered UK charity No. 802153

PRINTED BY GIPPING PRESS Ltd

Needham Market

Tel: 01449 721599

Fax: 01499 721372

ISSN 0959-2881

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of IGKT Executive Committee meeting January 2015

Out of 14 members we had 9 attendees and three apologies.

Future meetings:-

May 2015 AGM Otley...info with this KM

October 2015 half-yearly meeting, Rotterdam

May 2016 AGM potentially Hampshire (south of England)

October 2016 Half-yearly meeting, France

Watch out for more details of the last three.

Following months of preparation, we now have the Lambeth booklet at the printers, and Knotting Novelties (formerly Nylon Novelties) about to be printed. We are also having more copies of Skip Pennock's "Woven Flat Knots " being printed.

The Guild Library: Talks with the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, are reaching closure, and it is very hopeful that in future the Guild library will be housed with the Dockyard's own.

Web-site: work: The new site has now reached the stage of improving initial ideas and layout and work continues. It will be well worth the wait.

We have been working on having a Guild "business card ", and the Committee have now chosen the final design. This should be available by the AGM in May.

Sheila will be resigning as Secretary of the Executive Committee at the AGM. Any volunteers? You are free to nominate yourself.

Our next meetings will be 22nd March 2015 and 17th May 2015

Sheila Pearson

Secretary Executive Committee

Letters to The Editor The Things You Say!!

Supply Snippets

- Colin Grundy's "Rope Care and Splicing for Inland Boaters" has been ●
- added to the Guild's Catalogue. Contains black and white photographs ●
- of the three common splices and whipping. A5 booklet of 20 pages £2. ●
- Monologue 14 "Gunks and Goos" by Rick Mitchell is now available. ●
- A compilation of recipes from many sources, designed to extend the ●
- working life of ropes, boats, nets & sails. Includes a glossary of materi- ●
- als mentioned. 84 pages 23 b/w illustrations £7.50 ●

Terry Barns [supplies@igkt.net]

It was with a sense of wonder and horror that I read this article; stating that Scouts were abandoning knotting - not at 1st Mosterton they're not!

We have undertaken to get our Scouts and Cubs to do more knotting, but to make it more interesting. Learning a knot for the sake of learning it will never appeal to any child, so we teach knots with a purpose. The guy-ropes on our tents are often too long, and so one of the first knots the children learn is the Sheep-shank. All Scouts wear the Reef-knot on our uniforms, so we teach this [also].

Knotting can be a dry subject, so we try to make it short and fun. I am always looking for stories to tell when knotting - why don't we share some to make sure more groups learn this essential craft.

Clive Hobbs

Scout Leader

1st Mosterton Scout Group (Dorset, UK)

Sent from my iPad

Don't worry, be happy!

All Is Knot Lost

In KM 125 (p6), our UK Stringer reported that the Scout Association (UK) had announced it's intention to abandon knots. This was the result of an article that appeared in the Daily Mail newspaper. The article also prompted an interview on primetime national radio with our Hon. Secretary, Dr. Colin Byfleet.

All is not quite as it appears. While the Scout movement in the UK attempts to move with the times and offer many activities for Scouts to progress, that do not involve learning knots or similar skills such as backwoods cooking, these skills have not been abandoned entirely as the newspaper article would suggest.

Those of us who are of an age to remember tying our Tenderfoot and First Class knots, or even Scout Standard and Chief Scout's Award would probably not recognise today's Scouting programme. The Beaver, Cub or Scout of the 21st Century now has a much wider range of Challenge and Activity Badges to work for and progress through their Scouting. True, they could reach the heady heights of Queen's Scout without ever tying a knot, but knots are still there all the same.

Knots can be found in at least one Beaver badge, three Cub badges and nine Scout or Explorer badges! As a lifelong knot tyer, it is sad to see that knot tying is losing its prominence. IGKT members know how useful this skill is, so let's make sure we try to keep knot tying in the public eye.

Colin Grundy

NEWS SNIPPET

from our UK stringer

In a letter to The Sunday Telegraph newspaper dated Feb. 22-2015, a reader commented; 'One of the pleasures of a Six Nations* rugby weekend is observing the scarf choice and, in particular, the knotting choice made by the on-pitch pundits. To date I have spotted knot, twist, tuck, loop, braid, fold and wrap techniques.'

*[*England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales – Ed.*]

Knot Names

by Owen K. Nuttall

Some knots have many names already, why add another?

Let's go back to the start of knots. The oldest knots are the Granny and Reef knot, these started in Africa many years ago. When primitive man first left Africa and eventually populated the world, primitive man would have a basic knowledge of tools, weapons and cordage. His knots would have been the Granny and Reef for binding and the single overhand, to prevent his cordage from unwinding. When primitive man left Africa, he left behind a distant relative, the 'Gorilla', the only other animal (apart from man [*and some birds and the hagfish – Ed*]) with the ability to tie knots.

When Ivan T Sanderson toured Africa, on his return he wrote his book '*Animal Treasures 1937*'. He wrote about examining a Gorilla's sleeping nest, which used vines and saplings tied with numerous knots, two dozen in total, most of them Granny knots and three Reef knots. (*Page 187*).

So we arrive at a chicken and egg scenario or Gorilla and *Homo sapiens*. Which came first? Do we call the Granny and the Reef knot, the Gorilla or *Homo sapiens* knots? Let's, however, leave the name of knots alone as they have been around for many years, let's not add to the confusion. [*Does Owen have a point readers? Write and let us know your thoughts.*]

On a separate subject: Most finished knots are fairly easy to work out how they were tied. This includes bends (the exception for many years was the blood knot) single loops, double loops and hitches. The exceptions are knots tied on the bight.

The three knots with which I have had a lot of fun over many years are the Clove Hitch, Lark's Head, and the Simplicity. Give them a try. The tyings will be in the next K.M.

Owen Nuttall

The Weed That Strings the Hangman Neckties

A News Snippet by Our UK Stringer

Spotted in the letters column of the [UK] Daily Mail newspaper dated December 22, 2014: 'One Christmas gift I'd give our politicians would be lessons in how to tie a Windsor knot. They always appear with ties knotted in 'schoolboy' fashion.'

∞ oOo ∞

A Letter from a Master

Lindsey,
Thanks for your kind words.

I've taken pictures of each step in the making of this frame [*shown opposite*], and will soon put together a tutorial on frame making. But for now, I'll let you know that each man-rope knot in the center piece, corners, and the sides of the frame was tied and mounted one at a time. There are approx. 800 knots total, and I tied over a thousand to get enough the right size. I used 5 different sizes of cotton cord, and 4 different adhesives to complete the project. All man-rope knots on the outside of the frame are first held in place with glue, then hand sewn to the sennit work. The frame base was custom made from kiln dried poplar, then completely covered with #10 canvas. The center piece is mounted on 3/8 inch [*10 mm*] 7 ply Baltic birch plywood covered on the front side only with the same canvas. It took just over 8 months from start to finish and measures 50 inches high by 41 inches wide. It consumed approx. 8000 feet of cord, including scrap and waste, and 3 rolls of bandage tape to protect my fingers while tying all the square knot sennits.

Skip Hipps [*We are all looking forward to hearing more from you Skip*]



THE MULTI-STRAND

MATTHEW WALKER

by Gary Summers

The multi-strand Double Matthew Walker is one of the most decorative knots that I know. However, most of the time you will have a problem like the one shown.



Problem: Part One (above) Overwrap!

Solution: Part One
(at right)



The problem is that one, or more, strands have been covered up by another strand and the end is buried.

To correct the problem, insert a pricker under the strand that needs to be moved down. Here it is the red strand.

Hook the tool over the next strand, the blue one, and fold the red one over the blue one - reposition the blue if needed.



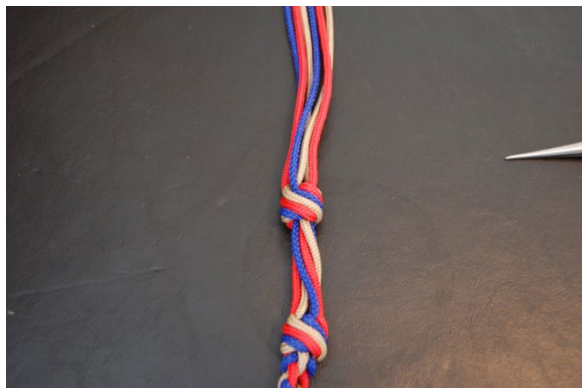
Solution: Part Two
(left)

Re-tighten the knot and no more problems!

Problem solved!
(right)



However, after making the knot, you might want to move it next to another knot.



Problem: Part Two -
Moving a Knot?

Take any strand, here it is the red strand, and pull it so the knot moves towards the lower one.

Solution: Part One
(right)

Solution: Part Two
(below)



Tighten the red cord
from above, but not too
tight (left)

Pull the tan cord until the slack is gone.

Solution: Part Three
(right)



Next, tighten the tan cord but again, not too tight.

Continue with the other cords, tighten.



Solution: Part four (left)

Problem Solved!
(right)





Photo by Cathie Coward, The Hamilton Spectator
Draik Maskell (L), 15, and Natalie Gordon (R), 13, tackle the six basic Scout knots, all of which they can tie in under 14 seconds.

As reported in the Hamilton Spectator
By Jeff Mahoney Sept. 22, 2014

Wall and crown, clove hitch, monkey fist, Turk's head, manrope, Matthew Walker, reef, shroud, granny, bowline and the sheet bend.

What am I talking about?

Knots. Without them we wouldn't have sailing, mountaineering, men's neckwear or, more darkly, the gallows, at least not as we know them. Knots are incredible. But what are they exactly? Not really "things."

The rope is the thing, the object. Its "substance" changes naught, be it knotted or not. Yet there's all the difference in the world between a tied and untied line. To be technical, the knot is a dynamic recipe of manipulations for fixing specific linear contiguities in space. What?

They are, as just illustrated, a caution to word users; as hard to describe as they are to tie. It's been said the true test of a writer is whether they can describe in a paragraph, without diagrams, how to tie a particular knot such that the reader, on the strength of the writer's clarity, ends up tying it right.

Draik Maskell, 15, and Natalie Gordon, 13, are tying their knots right. And really fast. It gladdens the heart of John Staley to see it. John is a retired engineer, lifelong Scout enthusiast and an apostle of the knot. He worries about the future of tying. So, recently, John helped start the South Ontario chapter, based in Hamilton, of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. The only chapter in Canada.

On Oct. 3, 4 and 5, Hamilton hosted Canada's first ever knot-tying conference. IGKT members from all over the world attended, at the Dundurn Castle Coach House. This year, John also founded a Hamilton knot-tying club for young people, in an effort to project the tradition into the future (it used to be huge in Scouting, but has fallen off). Natalie and Draik immediately took to the club and the speed challenges.

I watched them recently, doing the famous six-knot challenge (sheet bend; reef knot; round turn/two half hitches; bowline; sheepshank; clove hitch). Their bests at Hamilton Scout House on James Street South that night were in the 13-second range. Under 20 is considered very good, under 15 exceptional. "When we started back in October," says John, "it took them a full minute."

"I just liked it," says Draik. "Right away. I don't know why. The reef is the easiest to tie but it's the hardest to tie fast. It's hard not to think when you're trying, but when I think, it goes worse." "We race each other," says Natalie. "I practise by tying with my eyes closed and sometimes behind my back."

Dave Lambert, an adult member of the Southern Ontario IGKT, is an expert knot tyer and speedster. He practises with Draik and Natalie, who are with 81st Hamilton scout group out of St. Andrew's United Church. His best time is 11.3 seconds.

“Soon these kids’ll be beating me,” he says. The key, he adds, is muscle memory. Dave has a copy of the famous Ashley Book of Knots. Some 4,000 are detailed therein. John tosses a length of rope to Draik. “Tie yourself off, using the bowline,” he says, “with one hand.” Draik does, securing it around his waist. “To Scouts, that’s known as the rescue knot,” says John. “Better to know a knot and not need it, than need a knot and not know it.”

Maybe the “tied” is turning, if you’ll forgive the pun.

Remember the video *What Does The Fox Say?* Well, the group that did it (Ylvis) has a new video out and it’s promising to be very popular. It’s called Trucker’s Hitch and it’s all about knot tying!

Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUHgGK-tImY.

And visit the South Ontario chapter of IGKT at knotcanada.com

Reported by jmahoney@thespec.com

905-526-3306



Golden Gate Bridge Netting

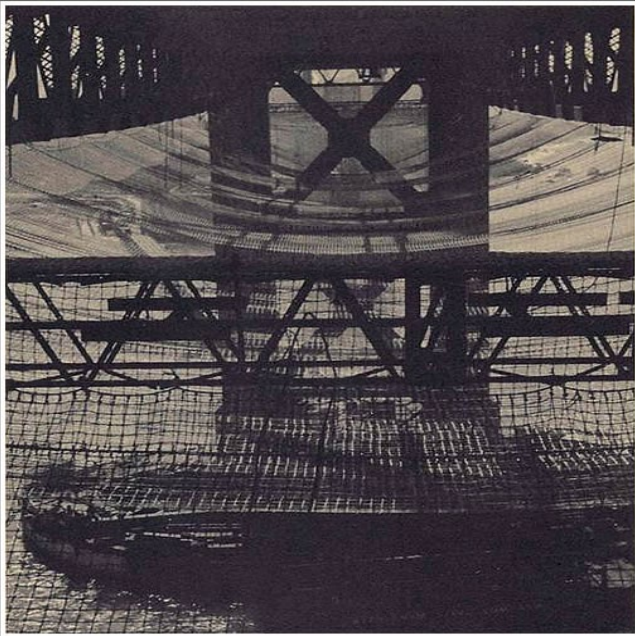
by Geoffrey Budworth

Officials responsible for the City of San Francisco’s iconic Golden Gate Bridge recently voted to deter suicides by installing a net beneath it. Since the bridge opened in 1937, some 1,600 have died from horrendous impact injuries and drowning after plummeting 220 feet to hit the water at around 75 mph. In 2013 there were 46 such deaths. The plan is to place a couple of stainless-steel nets, one either side, 20 feet beneath the 1.7 mile length of the bridge. The total cost of \$76 million (£45 million) will come from federal and state funding plus bridge tolls, with bidding for the job expected to start next year (2015), and construction to be completed in 2018.

This should deter most of those bent on self-destruction; while any who do attempt it from first jumping down into the nets, before re-launching themselves out and down into the water, are likely to be injured by the initial drop ... and then have difficulty clambering over and out of the sagging net. Some dare-devils, seeking their 15 minutes of fame via official CCTV and social media, may still risk the first bit of the fall for fun.

This will be the second such net. During the bridge’s construction in 1937 the project’s Chief Engineer Joseph Strauss had one suspended beneath the bridge’s roadway structure along its entire length, at a cost of \$130,000.

[Picture of construction net on prior page courtesy of Google Images]



[Picture: www.socketsite.com/archives/2013/3/05/]

This [*net*] was manufactured by the Tubbs Cordage Company(*) of San Francisco from three-eighths of an inch diameter manila rope, with six-inch square meshes. Extending 10 feet outside the trusses on both sides, it saved 19 lives; although it did not prevent 12 men falling into the water – of whom only two survived – when a section of scaffolding collapsed and then toppled out of the net.

**Men of Rope – being a History of the Tubbs Cordage Company*, by David Warren Ryder, published in 1954 by Historical Publications, San Francisco, USA.

[Geoffrey Budworth was once a river policeman whose duties included the rescue and restraint of numerous would-be suicides who jumped from Waterloo Bridge into the River Thames in the centre of London, England. Their average fall was a survivable 35 feet (depending upon the height of the tide) and, as suicide in the UK was until 1961 a criminal offence, a failed attempt resulted in arrest ... but rarely prosecution.]

∞ oOo ∞

Part of John Riching's Richness



A 4032 (!) facet cube made and photographed by John Richings. He used 2-plys of 1.5 mm cord (one red, one green) and posted it on Facebook on December 19, 2014. Well done John!

John Richings' work (right) continues to amaze us all. At right is one of five ellipsoidal shapes covered with colored knotwork that reduces the diameter of the shape toward each end, and having a lovely chevron pattern around its equator. Your editor counts seven nested bights - your guess?



Another remarkable Gaucha Knot piece (above), this time by another fine knotter, Michel Since, posted on Facebook, made over a wine cork from 1.5 mm cords, red, white and blue, having 13 leads and 11 bights. Beautiful!



The 'Nodus Pineappilus' Bug

from The Ministry of Agriculture & Whatknots

Gardeners and Horticulturalists are asked to be vigilant and report any instances of the caterpillar of the 'Nodus Pineappilus' bug. It will be found in various colours and in different habitats. It has a voracious appetite and has a particular liking for strong curries and single malt whiskey. When it finds suitable sustenance it can mutate from the more common Type 1 to even a Type 5 with any number of passes. The specimens captured here (Fig.1) are:

1. Invertebrate form of Type 1, 2pass 40part 8bight from a 21p4b embryo – a good climber.
2. The less active solid core Type 1, 2pass 24p8b from a 13p4b embryo – at a juvenile stage

In Figures 2 and 3 it can be seen in its wild habitat. Figure 4 demonstrates that they don't just rely on dew for liquid sustenance and alcohol has the same effect on these as jam does for wasps.

Having gorged themselves on a variety of vegetation they settle down to pupate into the adult bug. A nest is built and a number will group together, presumably as mutual protection against predatory Star Knots and Matthew Walkers. Here is a typical nest found under a local hedge: Fig. 5

The spread of this phenomena northwards in the UK can be put down to the smaller pupae surreptitiously attaching themselves to unsuspecting key-rings.

On the coast regions one should also look out for the amphibious true Herringbone species and, as global warming develops, there may be a migration of the Gaucho type to our shores (Further circulars will be issued if any are found).

The Ministry is cognizant that keen hobbyists are developing house-trained varieties. They can be propagated from coloured cord cuttings in 3" pots. Lots of clear space is required to avoid entanglements. A typical collection of the basic plant and various hybrids are shown in Fig. 6 & 7.

The medical profession suggests that these practitioners have been bitten by the adult bug form of Nodus Pineappilus. While there is no known cure, an intravenous beer drip can alleviate the symptoms. So, please continue to be vigilant. The Ministry and mankind are relying on you.



Figure 1: far left

Figure 2: left

Figure 3: left center

Figure 4: right center

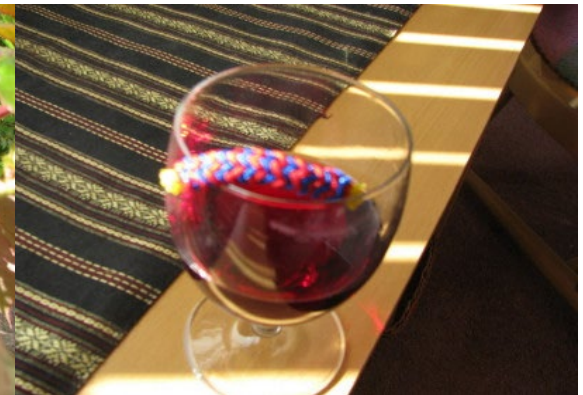


Figure 5: left lower; Figure 6: center below; Figure 7: below right.





Good things come in threes, right? The Trinity Knot (above) as modeled by our President in our last issue, #125, then the three-Lead four-Bight braid by JP Honeywell (above right) and three covered spheres by Michel Since (right), where the three-Bight meeting apex is clearly visible in the center of each one of these tripled covering knots.



Notes from the President

March 2015

Food for Thought from the President

Year after year, month after month, day after day, we all have to nurture relationships with old and new friends. I believe it is of the utmost importance among IGKT memberships that we weave our friendships tightly.

When I have the pleasure of attending our meetings, either in Europe or North America, (and maybe one day I shall attend IGKT gatherings further afield, say in Australia or New-Zealand) I always take time to look carefully at all the displays presented by the knot-tyers. I observe that some of them are classical : multi-coloured monkey fists, key rings, fenders, grommets, knot boards nicely done, various mats, complex turks heads, bellropes, string jewels and familiar animals, sometimes in very cute miniature sizes. Sometimes, however, quite by chance, you can come across something very unusual and totally unexpected. So, I wonder: how do people come up with new ideas? What are the roots of pure creation in knotcraft? I haven't found the answers to these questions yet.

Of course, while we can study the excellent books and videos on knot-tying, thereby extending and improving our skills, I fear this is not sufficient to produce creativity. Some of us are followers and we can copy what has been done previously, perhaps adding new tricks, trying new materials, using old or new tools : classic marlinespikes or fids, pliers, or tiny hemostat forceps, for example. But some knot-tyers are genuine inventors. How on earth do they manage to create amazing new projects? Some just start with a blank sheet of paper. They may be good at drawing, or smart at 3D geometry so that, doodling with a few pencil strokes or just folding the paper, they arrive at an elegant symmetric form, a new object. These days, some creative knot-tyers use a computer to discover a new way to cover a ball, a cube or a tetrahedron. Others, like in

the heyday of the tall sailing ships, will start quite simply with just a piece of rope or simple string, turning it round, weaving it over under... and finally, quite by chance, coming up with a completely new design of a button, flat knot or a new elegant crest or decorative form. At the 2014 IGKT October meeting in Hamilton, I had the pleasure of discovering the Boston hitch, made by Robert Moses. According to Robert, this is much better than the well-known timber hitch. A few years ago, a one-strand Matthew Walker knot by Barry Brown was published in Knotting Matters, and I found this an exceptional piece of work and send my congratulations to the author. There are, of course, many other examples of exceptional projects that are worth presenting to fellow knot-tyers.

Creative people are not numerous but, with active and steady concentration, much tying, braiding, splicing, whipping, and knotting, perhaps everyone has the potential for true innovation. A very good French knot-tyer used to tell me, "Tying at least one knot every day keeps your mind alert to knotting." This can help in discovering new projects. However, the most important thing for me is to not work alone, in one's own cave. Talk to other knot-tyers, to other people, share your knowledge, examine carefully what others are doing. You will find that this is a fantastic boost to your own creativity. Try to think differently and, in brief, have fun.

IGKT executives must remain on watch and be ready to reward those who are making true knotting innovations, even if they haven't already been persuaded to join our Guild as new experts. I would like to take the opportunity of these jottings, to thank all of those Guild members who are doing vital work behind the scenes, such as the Editor, the Secretary, the Treasurer and committee members in all the IGKT branches around the world. I am fully aware that this voluntary work can be very time consuming - "chronophage" as we say in French. Without their precious help, the IGKT would disappear. Remember, your help is always welcome and fully appreciated.

The Boston Hitch

as Told by its Developer

Robert D. Moses MD

Your editor received a manuscript from Dr. Moses in 2012 and posted a link to that manuscript on the IGKT Forum. Several replies were received, but none of them told anything of its having been published previously. In October 2014, Robert took his hitch to Ontario and asked for comments again, having posted the following on the Forum:

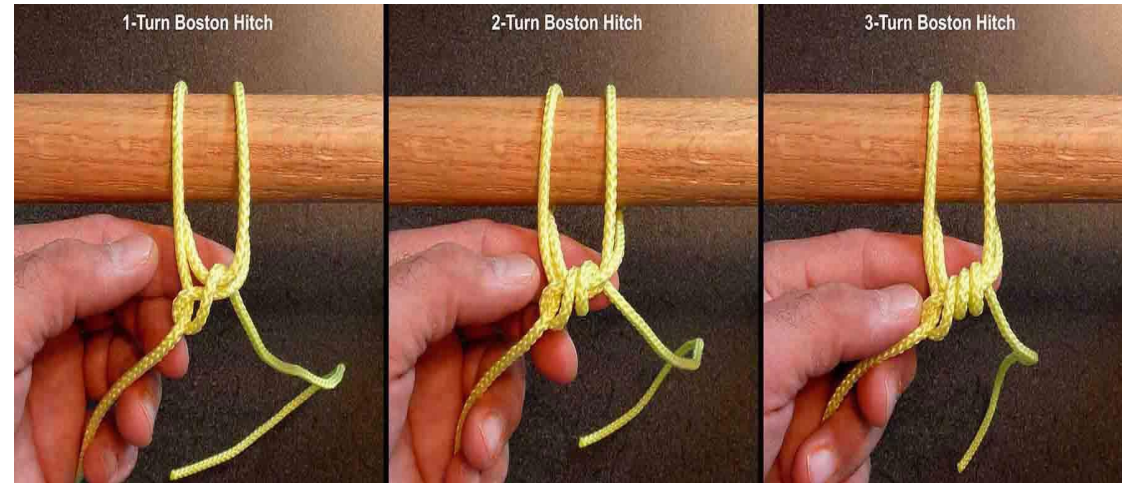
“Re: The Boston Hitch

« Reply #12 on: October 01, 2014, 05:49:57 PM »

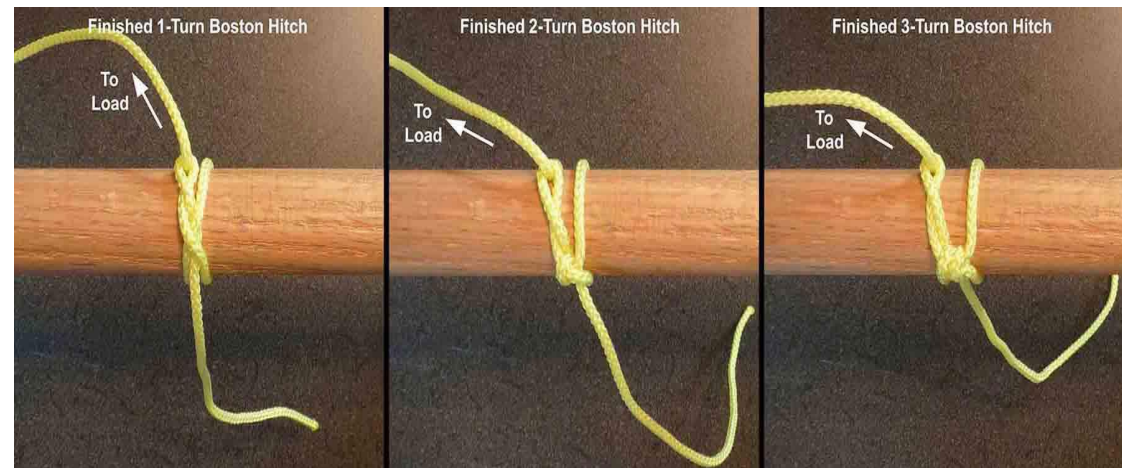
I am the developer of the Boston Hitch, which SquareRigger [*your Editor*] kindly submitted to this forum on my behalf in 2012. My apologies for the long delay in participating in this discussion.

I will be attending the North American semi-annual meeting of the IGKT the weekend of October 3 - 5, 2014 in Hamilton, Ontario and look forward to discussing my experiences with the Boston Hitch with fellow attendees.

Following the meeting, I will submit an update to this forum of various real-life tests I have put the Boston Hitch through these past two years, along with insights gained from discussions with fellow members at the meeting. Briefly, the Boston Hitch has remained secure, stable, and easy to untie through a variety of conditions, including two hurricanes, overwintering in the blustery winds of Cape Cod, some boating applications, and other conditions designed to challenge the hitch. I will also present some results comparing the Boston Hitch to two favorable hitches: Roo's Gnat Hitch (which I find to be very easy to tie and exceptionally secure but perhaps difficult to untie under extreme loading conditions) and the venerable and structurally related Timber Hitch (which, like the Boston Hitch, is virtually jam-proof but potentially insecure with slippery line.)”



Unfinished Boston Hitch, ready for fairing [above]



Finished Boston Hitch, ready for using [above]

Knotting Boards Down Under

by Jim Caswell

G'Day Lindsey,

Hi from Downunder!!

The attached photos are of some serious knotting boards on display at the "Ballina Naval & Maritime Museum". The township of Ballina is a very popular seaside holiday destination located on the the north coast of NSW [*New South Wales*] and is pretty much at the most easterly point of mainland Australia. A local IGKT member (Mick Corker) called recently to say "Have you seen the bellrope in the Ballina Maritime Museum? It's a beauty!". I hadn't, so thought I better had. Got quite a surprise to also find the number and quality of knot boards on display – a hidden treasure I thought should be of interest in KM.

It was hard to get a good shot of "The Bellrope". Apparently it was so attractive and tempting that everyone just had to "give it a ring" and it had to be put behind glass. The serious maritime members might also be interested to know that Ballina is where the Las Balsas Expedition of 1973 made landfall after it's crossing of the Pacific, and the Ballina Museum is the resting place of the only remaining raft of the Expedition (they can get more information at www.ballinamaritimemuseum.org.au).

Very Best Wishes

Jim Caswell

[Any ideas on who created these pieces?]





Two knot-boards from the Ballina, NSW, Naval & Maritime Museum in Australia, sent in by Jim Caswell



US Navy Landing Craft; Life Ring Project

by Guy Beckley

PMS 377 – LCAC/SSC Support

gbeckley@rp-tech.net

410-708-9585





Soon to be making its way to Baltimore, MD, USA is this ditty-bag from IGKT France aboard the French reproduction L'Hermione, departing April 18, 2015 for which the landing and handover date are:

Yorktown : June 5 to 7; Mount Vernon : at anchor on June 9; Alexandria : June 10, 11 & 12; Annapolis : June 16 to 17; **Baltimore : June 19 to 21 (handover date)**; Philadelphia : June 25 to 28 (with Tall Ships America); New York : July 1 to 4 (with Tall Ships America); Greenport : July 6 to 7 (with Tall Ships America); Newport : July 8 & 9; Boston : July 11 & 12; Halifax /Lunenburg (Canada) : 18 July; St Pierre et Miquelon, July 23; Brest, from August 10 to 17.

Bob Dollar was at the French branch meeting in Baltimore, he is thinking about coming to Baltimore and may have plans on how to conduct a handover of the French IGKT ditty bag.

The gift of a ditty bag from the IGKT French branch can be seen as a kind of wink about the historical link between France and America for the help provided to General Washington.

For more information: <http://www.hermione.com/voyage/les-escales/>



The bag and contents (under glass) being put on display at Rochelle at the IGKT France AGM last weekend (March 7 & 8), prior to being loaded on board L'Hermione for the trip to Baltimore and other ports in the USA.

...and a message from Nicolas Forgeau:

Bonsoir à tous,

Le sac est terminé. Merci à Simon, et à tous les contributeurs de l'araignée, Vincent, Loic, Sylvain, Luc. Je l'ai "fixé" sur le sac, et désormais il est à bord. Merci également à tous ceux qui ont contribué au remplissage. Vous pouvez encore envoyer vos merveilles, il reste de la place dans le sac.

La remise aura lieu à Baltimore.

Bonne soirée,

Nicolas Forgeau

If you would like to be present at the handover, or you have something you would like to contribute, contact the Editor or Bob Dollar **prior to June 1, 2015.**

The Right Honorable Robert, Lord Baden-Powell OM GCMG GCVO KCB; Feb. 22, 1857 - Jan 08, 1941

Remembering Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell, OM GCMG GCVO KCB (Baden as in maiden; Powell as in Noel) (22 February 1857 – 8 January 1941), also known as B-P or Lord Baden-Powell, was a lieutenant-general in the British Army, writer, founder of the Scout Movement and first Chief Scout of The Boy Scouts Association.

After having been educated at Charterhouse School in Surrey, Baden-Powell served in the British Army from 1876 until 1910 in India and Africa. In 1899, during the Second Boer War in South Africa, Baden-Powell successfully defended the town in the Siege of Mafeking. Several of his military books, written for military reconnaissance and scout training in his African years, were also read by boys. Based on those earlier books, he wrote *Scouting for Boys*, published in 1908 by Sir Arthur Pearson, for youth readership. In 1907, he held the first Brownsea Island Scout camp, which is now seen as the beginning of Scouting.

The first Scout Rally was held at The Crystal Palace in 1909, at which appeared a number of girls dressed in Scout uniform, who told B-P that they were the “Girl Scouts”, whereupon B-P and his sister Agnes Baden-Powell formed the Girl Guides Movement. After his marriage on 30 October 1912 to Olave St Clair Soames, Baden-Powell and his wife actively gave guidance to the Scouting and Girl Guiding Movements. Baden-Powell lived his last years in Nyeri, Kenya, where he died and was buried in 1941.

[As found in *WikiPedia*]

Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson



So, did you spot the difference? Lord Nelson has a coil of line standing behind him in the statue on top of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. No correct guesses were received - maybe nobody knew or maybe nobody cares? One person did think that Nelson's eye-patch was missing but, as you can see, he did not have a patch in the original statue. Would you like to see more pieces like this? BTW, Nelson married Frances on March 11, 1787, 228 years ago!!

Captain Cook; died February 14, 1779



2015 Meeting Plans

Otley

2015 Meetings

May 8th -10th The AGM will be held in Otley, West Yorkshire, a small market town on the river Wharfe, close to the famous Ilkley Moors. Otley was famed in the past for paper making, printing machines and rope making. The famous cabinet maker Thomas Chippendale was born there. Our meeting venue is in the centre of the town, which is 5 miles from Leeds/ Bradford airport, and 15 miles from those cities. Further details will be in the December issue of KM

October 9-11 A half-yearly meeting will be hosted by the Dutch Branch and will be held in Rotterdam. Details later.

Rotterdam

The Other (Tiny) Knots

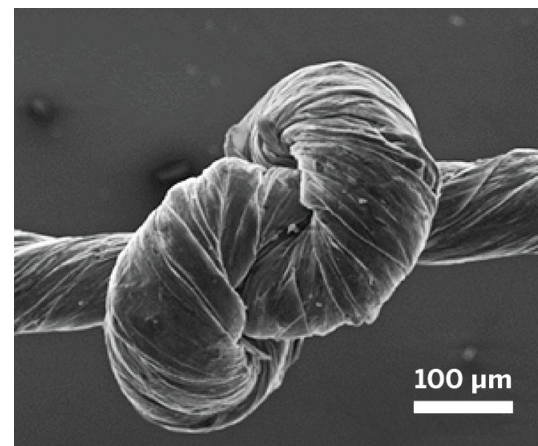
by
Frank Brown

Gudday Lindsey

Trolling the web for some pictures I came across some showing knots tied in nanotubes. Did a bit more looking and found a couple that might be of interest.

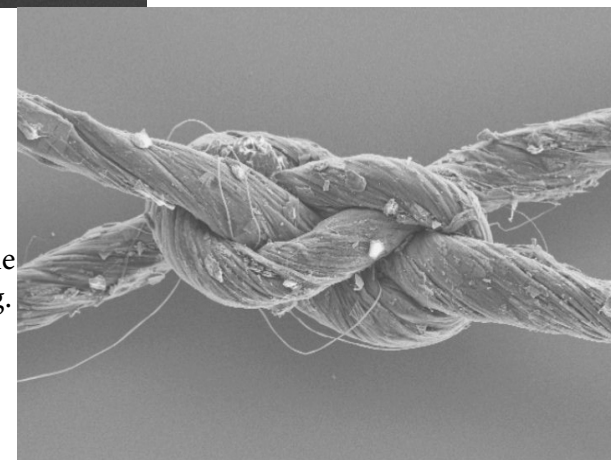
Cheers!

Frank Brown



Graphene oxide fibers from Chemical & Engineering News, Photo by ACS Nano: Graphene oxide is first formed into a film 5 microns thick and is then twisted (using an electric drill) c/w to form a fiber.

Carbon nano-fibers tied into a Single Carrick Bend, roughly 100 times stronger than steel and one-sixth of the weight, depending on the treatment during processing.



Found on the Internet

The image below appears to be from ArtPeople.net an organization of artists in San Francisco and is copyright to Stephen Kettle.



Artist Stephen Kettle from the UK created this stacked slate sculpture of a Trefoil or Triquetra Knot. He was born in West Bromwich and now lives and creates stacked slate art from his home in West London. He has another photograph of this statue on his web-site labeled "Continuum". He also has another knot, the Figure of Eight. Both are listed for sale.



Another magnificent creation by Jorgen Friis-Jensen, these baskets are made with white cotton cord and show a wonderful facility for standing up by themselves - they certainly stand alone when it comes to design and workmanship!



From the 18th dynasty of Egypt, this rawhide piece, an ax-handle covering, was sent as a photograph by Marcin Takler. Scale is 10 mm long.

Branch Reports

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH REPORT

The Autumn meeting of the branch had the theme of “Most Usefull” which provided many unusual variations on the theme and practical demonstrations including how to throw a heaving line.

The next meeting of the IGKT Anglian Branch will be in the Windmill Room, Abbots Hall School, Stowmarket at 2pm on Saturday 18th April 2015. The main theme of the meeting will be for members to present suggestions for the modern replacement of Baden Powell's 6 Tender-foot knots with samples and reasons, together with the normal features including “My favourite knot.”

From Stuart Weston

From IGKT FRANCE

IGKT France

Assemblée générale Rochefort [*photo à droit*]

8 Mars 2015

Ordre du jour

Rapport moral 2014 (les événements 2014 et la carte de localisation des adhérents)

Rapport financier 2014

Cotisations 2015

Site internet : connexion à igkt.net. Contenu à développer

Page Facebook (IGKT France)?

SdN : avis sur l'évolution de la mise en page et du contenu

Événements prévisibles 2015

Salon nautique Concarneau 1 au 3 /Mai/15

Puces nautiques Granville Mai 2015

AGM IGKT Otley (UK) 8 au 10/Mai/15

Semaine du Golfe du Morbihan Vannes 11 au 17/Mai/15

Volvo Ocean Race Lorientmi-Juin 2105

Semaine du Nautisme La Rochelle 11 au 14/Juin/15

Entre Terre et Mer Morlaix 2 au 5 /Juillet/15

Classique de Sciez Sciez (lac Léman) 7 au 9/Aout/15

Festival du chant marin Paimpol 14 au 16/Aout/15

Filets bleus Concarneau Août 2015

Festival de Loire Orléans 23 au 27/Sept/15

Half-Year Meeting Rotterdam (NL) 9 au 11/Oct/15

AG à Rochefort: tous les trois ans au lieu de deux?

Statuts: modifications, règlement intérieur

Divers:

Panneau d'information IGKT (60 x 80) - fond blanc, mise en valeur du partenariat avec Corderie Royale de Rochefort

Panneau à enrouleur IGKT (2 m) – idem panneau fixe

Carte de visite IGKT France avec même format qu'IGKT

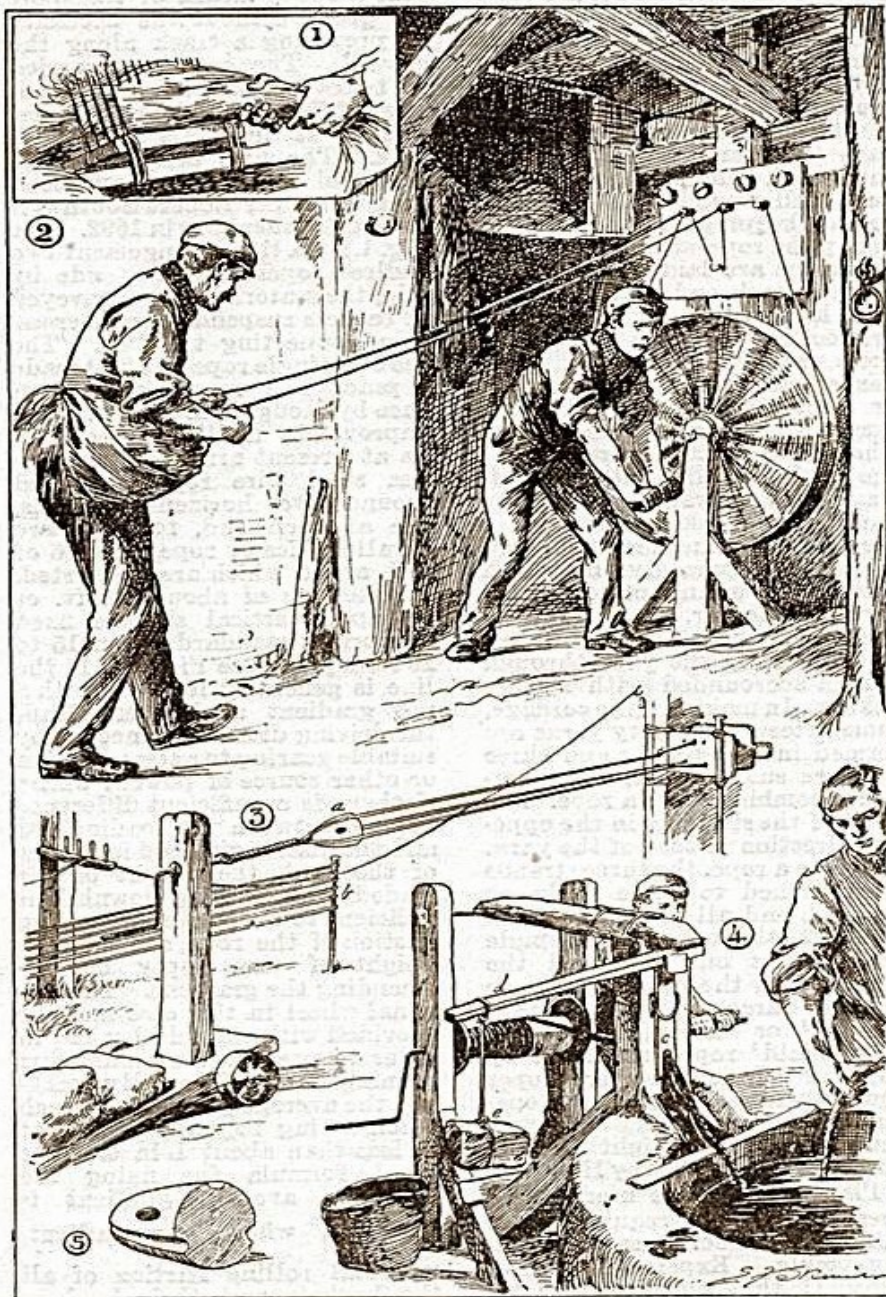
Lexique Franco - Anglais - Allemand sur les nouages

Doubler les postes : trésorier, rédaction SdN

Élection du conseil et du bureau

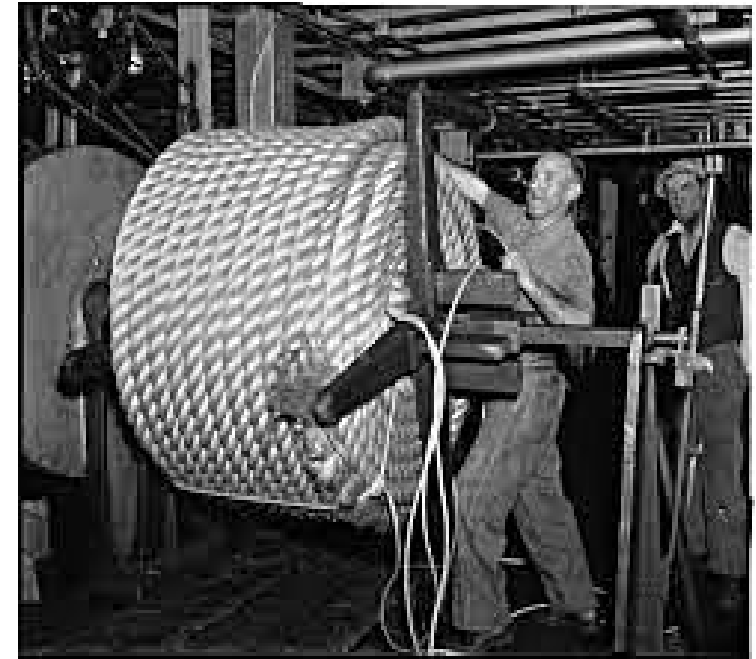
[As sent by Jean-Pierre Durand on February 24, 2015]





Rope-making by Hand.

1. Combing the hemp. 2. Spinning two yarns. 3. Making a rope of three strands: a, top; b, yarns being warped. 4. Tarring a rope. 5. Top.



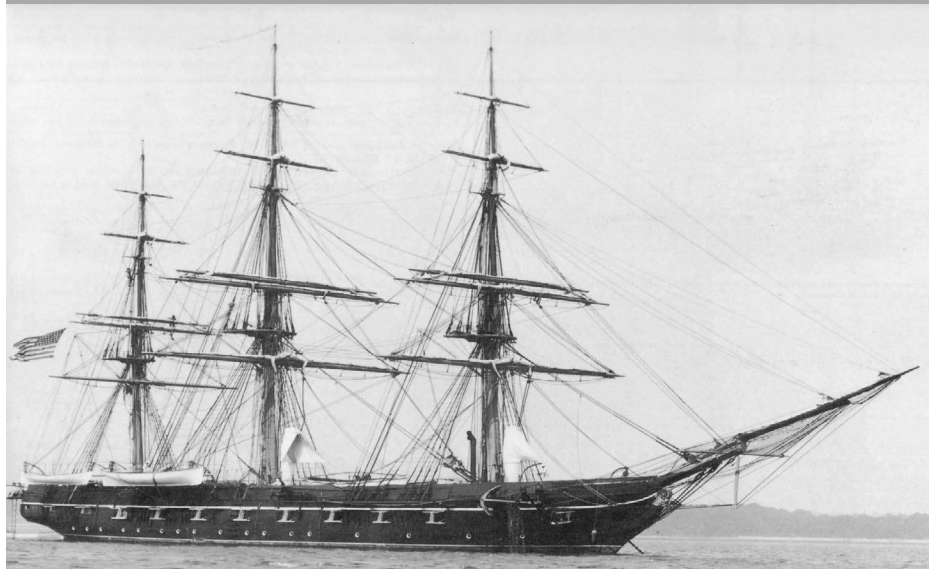
Three wonderful examples of ropemaking and rope made, supplied by Lee Radehag. No attribution is given for the images but copyright is retained by the originators of each illustration. The manila/hemp rope above was apparently made for naval use. The line being formed below is from Malmo, Sweden.

The longest rope, of natural fibres, without splices, was made of Manila (Abacá). It was 18,290 meters (10 000 fathoms) and measured 16.5 cm in diameter. Made by Frost Brothers in London, 1874. Source: *Guinness Book of Records*. [Not in this photo.]



Ancient Practice Continues Into The Present

Photograph of the Past



This Sloop of War wasn't even commissioned until 1843. The above photo may have been taken while she was functioning as a school training ship between 1877 and 1907. Here's a photo of how she looked then: Starboard view of Sloop of War USS Saratoga at anchor during a visit to England in 1899. Photo courtesy of the Imperial War Museum. Image and text from "Warships of The Civil War Navies" by Paul H. Silverstone, via NAVSource. Below, a photograph of 3-inch Rifle & Co, 1842, aboard. Have you sailed on a square-rigged ship? Tell us and get your story here!



Alaskan Branch

Every Thu. evening 6:00 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Ave., Anchorage, AK
Contact Charles Rigden
Tel: (1) 928/231-4775

East Anglian Branch

Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch

Contact Jean-Pierre Durand
06 64 00 66 91
durand0547@orange.fr
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch

Contact: Andree Treffenfeld
Hermann-Lons Str 3C, D-24558
Henstedt-Ulzburg, Germany
Telephone: +49 (0) 172 4156789
Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch

The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch

Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682 117

Netherlands

Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Frits Ottens
Tel: +31(0)587850011
Fruitstraat 58, 8933 GR Leeuwarden,
Netherlands
E-mail: frits.efina@telfort.nl

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region

Contact: Michael Pollock
See handbook for details

NAB - Knot in the Middle

Contact: Rusty Helms
See Handbook for details

Pacific Americas Branch

Second Tuesday of each month
At the Los Angeles Maritime Institute
(upstairs)
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch

Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch

Meetings are held at Guildford District
Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guild-
ford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone
for more details
Contact: Howard Denyer
Tel: +44(0) 1483 536 401
www.surreyknots.org.uk

Sweden

Contact: Christoffer Åström
Tel: +46 736 381 731
E-mail: christoffer@knopar.se

West Country Knotters

Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
The Benjamin Perry Boathouse Activity
and Training Centre
Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street,
Bristol BS1 6TJ
Contact: Richard Hopkins for directions
Tel: 0117 986 7146

May be subject to change - call first

West Yorkshire Branch

Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

**Back Cover - From 25 years ago - NASA
image of the pale blue dot, first photo-
graphed from space on February 14,
1990, superimposed on John Riching's
blue sphere.**

